



CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services

Michael G. Oxley, Chairman

For Immediate Release:

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Oxley to Highlight Accomplishments of New Financial Services Committee

As he completes the first year of his chairmanship, House Financial Services Committee Chairman Michael G. Oxley (OH) will highlight the new Committee's achievements at a news conference on Capitol Hill tomorrow. The first new committee created in 30 years, the Financial Services Committee consolidated for the first time jurisdiction over the securities, banking, insurance, and housing areas.

"Creating a new committee has been an exciting task," Oxley said. "We really earned our stripes for our efficient and effective response to the policy challenges presented to us on 9/11. Our knowledgeable members, terrific subcommittee chairs, and bipartisan spirit all came together to put the Committee on the map at the beginning of the year and to successfully navigate these recent difficult days."

As its top three accomplishments of the year, Oxley cited the following pieces of legislation:

- 1) **Anti-Money Laundering title of the PATRIOT Act, P.L. 107-56**
- 2) **Terrorism Risk Protection Act, H.R. 3210**
- 3) **Capital Markets and Investor Fee Relief Act, H.R. 1088**

Anti-Money Laundering. The Committee wrote and successfully passed stiff, new, anti-money laundering legislation aimed at disrupting and stopping terrorist financing, as well as more typical occurrences of drug and crime-ring money-washing. The bill formed a new partnership between the

industry and federal law enforcement and brings informal money transfer systems, such as hawalas, under the more formal structure applied to banks and other financial institutions. President Bush signed the bill into law on October 26.

Terrorism Risk Protection Act. Just days after 9/11, the Committee began studying the problem of availability of commercial terrorism insurance, a problem which threatens to disrupt the economy next year. With the assistance of Capital Markets Subcommittee Chairman Richard H. Baker (LA), Oxley created a unique risk-sharing loan program to address the problem, protecting policyholders and taxpayers alike. An array of taxpayer and consumer groups have come together in support of the bill's provisions which insist that taxpayer assistance to the insurance industry be repaid. H.R. 3210 passed the House on November 29 and is pending action in the Senate.

Capital Markets and Investor Fee Relief Act. Reducing user fees on investors by \$14 billion over ten years, Oxley's bill would save American investors \$3 million each day. Investor fees are charged for the purpose of funding the Securities and Exchange Commission; however, six times the necessary amount is currently being charged. Government cash registers ring up the excess money, and it goes straight into general revenue for spending on other Washington programs. The House passed H.R. 1088 on June 14 and it is pending Senate action.

"I hope that the Senate will act on the two of these three worthy issues that still demand its attention," Oxley said.

In addition to these major accomplishments, the Financial Services Committee performed significant work in many other areas. Just to name a few of its many initiatives, the Committee held the first congressional hearing about the Enron collapse; explored conflicts of interest for financial analysts; passed legislation to expand emergency powers held by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); held a series of hearings on affordable housing issues; passed legislation to allow financial institutions to pay interest on business checking accounts; supported bankruptcy reform and netting reform; performed ongoing oversight of many areas of Gramm-Leach-Bliley implementation; held a series of hearings on deposit insurance reform; supported free trade in financial services; and worked to limit identity theft.

The news conference is scheduled for 11 a.m. December 19 at the House triangle.

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